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Other Working Group (or Intelligence Panel) Member Comments
since 12 March Meeting of NSCIC Working Group

* On 18 March General Tighe submitted to the DCI/IC a proposed Memorandum from the NSCIC to NSC. In commenting on the "Substantive Objectives," he said that the value of intelligence to consumers could be significantly improved if there were a "closer link" between the national intelligence effort and projected national policy. "If the Director of Central Intelligence could be provided annual guidance outlining the major national policy objectives for the forthcoming twelve-month period, this link could be established." The NSC should provide this to the NSCIC.

Comment: This is the impossible dream and perhaps an undesirable one too. We have to settle for more modest efforts to improve consumer-producer contact.

* → On 21 March RADM Hilton in a Memo to the DCI/IC proposed as an agenda item consideration of the purpose of the NSCIC Working Group. He regretted the lack of TORs for the Working Group or the Intelligence Panel.

Comment: For now the TORs for both can be no more specific than to assist in conveying to the DCI consumer views which are more valid or at least differ from consumer views relayed exclusively through USIB Principals.

* On about 15 April (memo is undated) Mr. Collins sent to the D/DCI/IC a memorandum critiquing 5 intelligence estimates--Soviet Detente Policy, [REDACTED] Implications of Reopening the Suez Canal, Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, India.

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Comment: We later received word changes from Treasury which in effect increased Treasury's criticism of the India estimate.

We agreed with Treasury that it might be better to vet this to the appropriate NIOs rather than circulate it for Working Group discussion. It might be worth mentioning that the D/DCI/IC commented "good" on the Treasury's observation that the Detente NIAM "would have been more useful if it listed a few things that should not be expected" of the Soviets under detente conditions.

→ Other Loose Ends

* At the 12 March NSCIC Working Group Meeting, the D/DCI/IC discussed the Provision of Consumer Guidance to the Intelligence Community, and asked Mr. Ober if he would be willing to present a proposed method of approach and study outline at the next meeting of the Group. Mr. Ober nodded. D/DCI/IC said he would seek to tie this down. RADM Hilton said he had ideas concerning this project since there were various documents used for OSD/JCS dialogue which might be useful. Subsequently, on 26 March, Secretary Ellsworth nominated Mr. Andrew Marshall, Director of Net Assessment, to be OSD Representative on Ad hoc subcommittee for Provision of Consumer Guidance to the Intelligence Community.

Comment: We have not specifically followed this up, nor has RADM Hilton, except for his memo regretting lack of TORs. We might try to do it this month.

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- * In Mr. Ellsworth's 26 March Memorandum to the chairman of the NSCIC Working Group on the Systematic Consumer Evaluation of Current Intelligence Products, as raised by the D/DCI/IC at the 12 March meeting, Mr. Ellsworth endorses it and tentatively proposed that Mr. Cordesman participate in such a subcommittee.

➤ Comment: No followup action yet. The RONI, of course, would be the perfect vehicle for spurring the deliberations of such a subcommittee. Dare we mention the RONI? Otherwise, we may have to stay in a holding pattern on this one too.

- * RADM Hilton has commented three times on the draft Perspectives for Intelligence at the 12 March meeting, to General Thomas on the 13 March, and in a memorandum to the D/DCI/IC on 19 March.

Comment: Perhaps special acknowledgement of this would be in order. We could (if the D/DCI/IC chooses), at least offer to make a special effort to solicit his reaction (and record same) to the final version of the Perspectives.

- * At the 12 March meeting, RADM Hilton said he thought that the Working Group action program would survey the response of users to intelligence products.

➤ Comment: Another argument for circulating the RONI to the NSCIC Working Group.

- * Mr. Brown of State said at the 12 March meeting that some of the statements in the draft Perspectives sent State officers "up the wall" & caused a "violent" reaction.

Comment: This is the best argument for tabling more comments on the Perspectives at this meeting. Brown should be asked for chapter and verse.

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